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Washington responded favorably to COLED 30 in these terms, which gives me discretion to act:

"FROM: WASHINGTON.

"ACTION: PARIS EDCOL 18, August 27, 10 P.M.

"NIACT SENT PARIS EDCOL 18, LONDON 1159.

"NIACT.

"Limited Distribution.

"Paris for Bruce and Dillon.

"If movement develops in Assembly to call conference such as contemplated COLED 29, Bruce authorized in his discretion to convey appropriate assurances that, despite result and delay in vote, U.S. would look on such conference with sympathy (Paris 829) and would accept if invited (COLED 30).

"Embassy London should inform Eden of possibility and urge British concurrence foregoing. Department leaves it to Bruce in his discretion to stimulate receptivity other EDC powers.

"Department repeating COLED 30 to London. SMITH."

Dirk Spierenburg called me from Luxembourg. He was unaware of the move in the Assembly to have the Brussels Conference resumed.

We spent most of the day talking to various people here about this tactic. It seems probable that Mendès would insist upon an expression of confidence in his conduct of the previous negotiation before he would assent to the commencement of a new one. In that case, resumption of ~~the conference would simply postpone~~ the decision by the French Parliament on EDC since the other five would certainly not agree to the previous French protocol, or any ~~modification of it requiring~~ resubmission to their Parliaments.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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☐or XD3☐EXT. DATE
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The other possibility would be for the Parliament to instruct Mendès to negotiate on the basis of a text which, if accepted by the other powers, would not require resubmission. As it now looks, approval of such a basis for negotiation by the National Assembly would seem improbable.

E. attended the debate today and arrived home from the last session after midnight.

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